Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/1014804701/

The News and Advance (Lynchburg, Virginia) · Tue, Feb 19, 1907 · Page 9
Downloaded on Oct 3, 2024

FOR CENTURY PLANT

BOTANISTS HOPE TO GET NEW SPECIMEN IN BAHAMAS.

Survey of the Archipelago to Be Practically Completed by Dr. Britton, of the New York Botanical Gardens—Schooner Chartered for Cruise.

Dr. N. L. Britton, director of the New York Botanical Garden, is now on his way by rail to Miami, Fla., where he will embark tomorrow on a steamship for Nassau, to continue the Garden's botanical exploration of the Bahama Islands, says the New York Evening Post. He is accompanied by Mrs. Britton, herself an accomplished botanist, who will give special attention to the collection of mosses and lichens, and they will be joined at Nassau by Dr. Charles F. Millspaugh, curator of botany in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, who sailed from New York last week.

It is intended to cruise among the islands in a schooner, which has already been chartered at Nassau, and to visit first Eleuthera Island, which lies about fifty miles east of New Providence. A week or so will be passed in coasting down the western shore of Eleuthera and touching at various points. This is the best agricultural island in the Bahamian group, containing the largest amount of arable soil, and having extensive plantations of pineapples; but a large part of it is still in a state of nature, and has never been explored botanically.

The party will briefly visit the small islands called Little San Salvador, lying between Eleuthera and Cat Island, which is the next large body of land south of Eleuthera, and rises above water the highest of the group, some of its hills being indicated on the charts as 400 feet in height. About a week will be devoted to Cat Island, and then two days will be passed on the small Conception Island, still further South, on which it is reported there are some interesting cacti to be found, which are not yet represented in the Garden's collections.

Going east, the investigators will then visit Waiting Island, which is supposed by some geographers to be the land first sighted by Columbus in the New World. A century plant is said to grow there, the exact species of which is yet unknown. Already the Garden's expeditions to the Bahamas have resulted in the discovery of three century plants new to science, and it is thought this may prove a fourth one.

Sailing southwest the party will next explore Long Island, where they will stay a week.

This is Dr. Britton's fourth trip to the Bahamas, which have also been visited for the purpose of botanical exploration by other representatives of the Garden, the work having been begun about four years ago. The islands already explored include New Providence, the Great Bahama, Abaco, Andros, the Bimihi Islands, Rese Island, the Berry Islands, the Exuma Cays, Crooked, Ackin's, Fortune, and Inagua Islands, Turk's Island and a large number of smaller cays or islets.

The present trip is intended to complete the survey of the archipelago, except the Caicos Islands and the Island of Miriguana, which lie near the southeastern end of the group and are accessible from Turk's Island by schooner. It is hoped to send a representative to these some time this year, after which Dr. Britton and Dr. Millspaugh, it is planned, will write a description of the flora of the Bahamas, in which all the observations and discoveries will be systematically collated. This will probably be published jointly by the two institutions which the authors represent.

For Century Plant

Clipped By:
C_St_Reed
Oct 3, 2024

Copyright © 2024 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.